



SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

Proclamation

Presented this 1st day of November 2018

WHEREAS, Antitrypsin Deficiency (Alpha-1) is one of the most common serious hereditary disorders in the world and can result in life threatening liver disease in children and adults or lung disease in adults; and,

WHEREAS, Alpha-1 has been identified in virtually all populations; and,

WHEREAS, an estimated 100,000 children and adults in the United States have the severe deficiency and up to six percent of caucasians in the U.S. carry a single deficient gene and may pass the gene on to their children; and,

WHEREAS, Alpha-1 is widely underdiagnosed and misdiagnosed with fewer than 10 percent of those predicted to have Alpha-1 receiving an accurate diagnosis; it often takes an average of five doctors and seven years from the time symptoms first appear before proper diagnosis is made; and,

WHEREAS, Alpha-1 is easily detected using a simple test; and,

WHEREAS, Alpha-1 is the most common known genetic risk factor for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), a lung disease that is the most frequent cause of disability and early death among affected persons;

THEREFORE, I, Bruce Rauner, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby recognize November 2018 as ALPHA-1 AWARENESS MONTH in Illinois to raise awareness of Antitrypsin Deficiency (Alpha-1) and to recognize the importance of finding a cure and improving the lives of people affected by this disease.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce Rauner".

Bruce Rauner
Governor, State of Illinois

